



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY WARNS RESIDENTS IN WESTERN PORTIONS OF NORTH CAROLINA TO BE READY FOR POWER OUTAGES

RALEIGH – Gov. Easley today warned residents, especially in western portions of North Carolina, to be prepared for power outages as freezing rain continues to fall. Ice accumulations in the western piedmont area could be as much as one-half inch. Power lines may come down with accumulations of one-quarter inch or more.

“The utility companies have notified the state that they expect power outages this afternoon from Hendersonville northeast to Reidsville,” said Easley. “People living in these areas need to take precautions to ensure that they have necessary provisions and stay warm until power can be restored.”

When using alternative sources of heat:

- Have emergency heating equipment and fuel available (a gas fireplace or wood burning stove or fireplace) so at least one room in your house is warm enough to be livable.
- A gas-powered generator may help provide small amounts of electricity to your home until power is restored.
- Never use a charcoal grill or camp stove indoors for either cooking or heating. The fumes can be toxic.
- When kerosene heaters are used, maintain ventilation to avoid the build up of toxic fumes. Always refuel kerosene heaters outside and keep them at least three feet away from flammable objects. Use only approved fuel in these heaters: never burn gasoline.
- Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure your family knows how to use them.
- Stay tuned to local media for additional weather information.

Families should always keep at least a seven-day supply of non-perishable food on hand in case of emergencies. Keep enough bottled water to allow at least one gallon per person per day.

N.C. Emergency Management (NCEM) is monitoring the situation and is prepared to assist local communities as needed. Power companies are keeping NCEM updated and have already mobilized repair crews.

The Highway Patrol reported some traffic problems this morning, mostly in the western part of the state. Icy conditions on bridges and overpasses will continue into the afternoon north and west of I-85.